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TC 1700

1722

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Eric R. George  
Robert L. Ballard

Serial No. : 10/011,659

Filed : November 29, 2001

For : NANOCOMPOSITE REINFORCED  
POLYMER BLAND AND METHOD  
FOR BLENDING THEREOF

Group : 1722

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TC 1700SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Trenton, New Jersey  
January 4, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

The below patent was recently issued by the United States Patent Office, and as such, has only in the last few weeks become available to the applicants herein for review. This patent is deemed relevant to the currently pending application, and for this reason the applicants disclose it with the herein Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

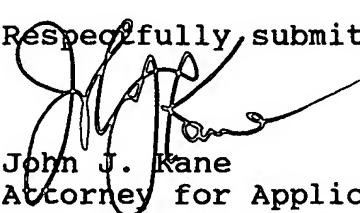
<u>PATENT NO.</u>	<u>PATENTEE</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>
6,486,254	Barbee et al	11/26/02

The '254 patent shows a polymer-clay nanocomposite with a melt-processible matrix polymer incorporated therein. A colorant composition is included comprising a clay material intercalated with at least one cationic colorant and having a cation group and a chromophore group. The cation group is separated from the chromophore group by at least two carbons. A

composition is also covered in this patent of the same components. On the other hand, the present invention provides a unique process for customizing the mechanical properties or other properties of a nanocomposite polymer blend in order to achieve specific target values for these mechanical properties or produce the mechanical properties within a predefined parameter envelope when considering such properties as stiffness, elasticity, tensile strength and lubricity. These properties can be varied by carefully monitoring and controlling the mixing proportions of pure virgin polymers and copolymers while at the same time carefully monitoring and controlling the parameters of the extrusion process to further carefully control the final values for certain mechanical properties thereof. There is no disclosure of this method or composition of matter in United States Patent No. 6,486,254, and for this reason, the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentable thereover.

Since the above-identified patent only recently came to the attention of the applicants, applicants submit it herewith for consideration by the Examiner during the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents Washington D.C. 20231,

on 1/4/03